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The Gift of
Charles W. Stone,
of Cambridge.
(H. U. 1874.)

12 March, 1881.

Homerus

ILIAD I:

TRANSLATED

BY

CHARLES WELLINGTON STONE.



CAMBRIDGE:

UNIVERSITY PRESS, JOHN WILSON AND SON.

1880.

Q# 62,880

55, March 12.
Gen. J.
Chas. W. Stone.
of Cambridge.
(6. 11. 12.)

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IN several of the proper names in the text, the Greek accent has been usually retained ; notably in Peleús, Atreús, Pátroclus, ~~and Dénean~~.

Also, in a few of the lines, one or two short syllables precede the first ictus.

ILIAD I.



I.

I. TELL us, thou goddess, in song
 of the ruinous wrath of Achilles,
Son of Peleus ; which entailed
 woes unnumbered upon the Achaians ;
Unto the darkness below
 remanding the shades of the valiant ;
While to the dogs and the birds
 the heroes themselves were abandoned ;
Left to be preyed on :
 albeit the purpose of Zeus was fulfilling.
This all began at the time
 when the monarch of men, son of Atreus,
Quarrelled with godlike Achilles
 and brought on their fatal estrangement.

II.

2. Which of the gods was it then,
 so to set them a striving and fighting?
The offspring of Leto and Zeus;
 for he gainst the king was embittered:
So from the ground of the camp
 he evolved a mephitic miasma;
Clear up and down through the lines;
 and of it the people were dying.
This was because he would punish
 the slight to his minister Chryses;
Who by the son of Atreus
 had been very despitefully treated.
3. Chryses had come to the ships,
 to the swift-sailing ships of the Argives:
Ransoms unmeasured by price
 had he brought for redeeming his daughter;
Taking along in his hand
 the fillets of radiant Apollo,
Strung on a sceptre of gold.
 He pleaded with all the Achaians;
But most with the sons of Atreus,
 who marshal the people in order.
4. Ye sons of Atreus, and ye others,
 whom men call the well-greaved Achaians,

- Unto you may the gift of the gods
 who abide in Olympian dwellings
Be the power to destroy root and branch
 Priam's town and go homeward in safety :
But restore me the child of my heart,
 and for her take the ransom I bring you ;
• For thus shall ye keep in the fear of the Zeus-born,
 the radiant Apollo.
5. Then the feelings of justice and awe
 brought a verdict from all the Achaians :
The priest should be held in respect,
 and his splendid requital accepted :
But one was by no means agreed ;
 the son of Atreus, Agamemnon :
He sent him gruffly away ;
 an injury heightened by insult.
6. Let me not find thee, old man,
 again by the hollow ships staying :
Go thou from hence at once,
 and come not again in the future ;
Or thy god, with the fillets and sceptre thou wearest,
 may hardly protect thee.
Thy daughter I shall not let go :
 much rather shall age come upon her
Dwelling afar from her fatherland,
 at my home, in Argos :

There shall she work at the loom,
 and there shall she sleep in my bosom.
 So then begone : rouse me not :
 if thou wilt get away from here safely.

7. Thus he spake ; and the old man through fear
 was constrained to obey his commandment :
 Silent he wended his way
 on the shore of the loud-sounding ocean,
 On to a spot remote ;
 where the aged one prayed, and kept praying,
 Unto Apollo his lord ;
 who was born of the lovely-haired Leto.

8. Hearken, O hearken to me,
 thou god of the bow that is silvern.
 Cilla the sacred and Chrysa
 thou hast in protection encompassed ;
 While over Tenedos' isle
 thou art lord in resistless dominion.
 Sminthian, is it not I
 that has reared thee a beautiful temple ?
 Is it not I that has burned
 on thine altar the thighs full of fatness,
 Offered from bulls and from goats ?
 Then, I pray thee, my longing accomplish ;
 That the Danaans, stricken by thee,
 for my tears may make ample atonement.

9. Thus ran his bitter appeal ;
 and Phœbus Apollo did hearken :
Down from the crest of Olympus
 he came with a heart full of anger ;
Wearing, slung over his shoulders,
 the bow and the close-covered quiver.
Rattle the shafts went behind,
 as the god in his anger strode forward ;
Omen of evil in store :
 and onward he swept like the night-time.
Over against the ships
 he tarried for launching his vengeance :
Terribly resonant then
 rang the twang of the bow that is silvern.
First to succumb were the mules ;
 and the fleet-footed hounds followed after :
Quickly the soldiers themselves
 by the nettle-tipt arrows were smitten.
Ever the funeral pyres of the dead
 in a cluster were burning.

III.

10. Nine were the days in the camp
 that the darts of the god came a glancing :
Till, on the tenth, to a throng
 the Achaians were called by Achilles.

This had been prompted at heart
by the goddess-queen Hera the white-armed :
She was concerned as she saw
the Achaians in pestilence dying.
So when they all had come,
and he saw them collected together,
Unto the multitude rising,
outspake the swift-footed Achilles.

11. Son of Atreus, to my mind we are foiled,
and shall backward be driven ;
Turning our course from hence,
if we think to escape from destruction :
Since now contagion and war
are allied to put down the Achaians.
Then let us get forthwith
from some prophet or priest an opinion ;
Or from a teller of dreams ;
for the dream is from Zeus, or it may be.
He unto us might explain
why Apollo so grievously rages ;
Whether he blames us
because of a hecatomb standing unoffered ;
Whether he heard not our vows,
and imagines they never were rendered.
If it be either of these things,
perhaps when he smelleth the savor

Rising from lambs and from goats,
 from lambs and from goats without blemish,
 He in his grace may relent,
 and withhold any further destruction.

12. Hereat he paused, and sat down ;
 and to them there uprose the seer Calchas ;
 Calchas, whom Thestor begat ;
 an unrivalled expounder of omens :
 He knew the things that have been, and that are,
 and the future that shall be :
 Safe unto Ilion's strand
 he had guided the ships of the Argives ;
 Putting the insight to use
 that Phœbus Apollo imparted.
 Having their welfare at heart,
 he addressed the assembled Achaians.


13. Thou, O Achilles, who art
 unto Zeus a beloved among mortals,
 Bidst me unriddle the wrath
 of Apollo the flasher of arrows :
 So I must speak ; but do thou heed my plight,
 and engage upon honor
 Freely to give me support,
 in word or in arms as be needful.
 For I divine that my word
 shall incense the proud chieftain of Argives :

He is their king ; and withal
hath the homage of every Achaian.
Kings are the ones to prevail,
when their fury confronteth the humble :
Though for the day they may seem
to have smothered the anger within them,
Yet doth it smoulder along,
secrete in the depths of the bosom,
Ready to blaze in its time.
And art thou in the mood to protect me ?

14. Unto the seer in response
outspake the swift-footed Achilles.
Tell thou in courage and cheer
the oracle just as thou knowest :
For by the Zeus-loved Apollo,
to whom thou, O Calchas, appealest,
Him who imparteth to thee
whatever thou tellst the Achaians,
No one while I am alive
and on earth keep the gift of mine eyesight,
Here at the hollow ships
shall lay finger of vengeance upon thee ;
No one from all the host ;
not even if thou namst Agamemnon ;
Who, if we judge from his boast,
is far best among all the Achaians.

15. Then was the worthy seer
 emboldened to speak the opinion.
 Not for a failure in vows,
 or for hecatombs standing unoffered,
 Falleth the wrath of the god
 thus heavily down on the Argives ;
 But for the sake of the priest
 Agamemnon so churlishly treated.
 He would not give him his child,
 and would not accept of the ransom.
 This was the cause of the pangs
 that have come from the radiant Apollo :
 This is the cause of the pangs
 that Apollo will further continue :
 Neither the Danaan camp
 will ~~be~~ free from this foul devastation,
 Till to the father she loves
 the sunny-eyed maid be delivered ;
 Given without ransom or price :
 and perhaps it would bring absolution,
 If unto Chrysa were driven
 a hallowèd herd of a hundred.
16. Hereat he paused, and sat down ;
 and to them there uprose Agamemnon,
 Son of Atreus ; the hero,
 and monarch of wide-spread dominion.

He was provoked ; and his heart
 was surcharged with the blackness of passion :
Under his brow the two eyes
 flared out like a fire set to blazing :
Darkly on Calchas he frowned,
 and to Calchas directed his answer.
Prophet of ills, at me
 thou art always and only a croaker :
Evil the things that thy heart
 doth delight in forever predicting :
Nothing to help or to cheer
 ever came from thy preaching or practice.
Thou in the Danaan throng,
 a demagogue now, not a prophet,
Hast the presumption to tell them
 that I am the cause of their troubles ;
I have affronted Apollo,
 and therefor the radiant is wrathful,
In that I would not consent
 to accept of the elegant ransom
Brought me by Chryses the priest
 in exchange for the maiden his daughter.
Now then I very much wish
 to take her back home for my mistress :
I would much rather have her
 than my nominal wife Clytemnestra :



She is her equal in feature
and form and affection and talent.
Yet will I render her up,
if that will secure us advantage :
I have no wish that the people should die
when they might live in safety.
But then replace what ye take ;
that I may not of all the Achaians
Thus be deprived of my meed ;
for that would be very unseemly :
And it is patent to all
that the prize I now hold is to leave me.

17. Then came the answering word
from the godlike fleet-footed Achilles.
Worshipful son of Atreus,
immensely thou cravest possession.
How are the great-souled Achaians
to grant thee the boon thou demandest ?
Surely we are not aware
of a treasure heap held yet in common :
When we have pillaged a town,
the booty has all been divided :
It would not do for us now
to conquer it for redistribution.
Yet, for the sake of the god,
send the maiden along to her father :

Threefold and fourfold will we as Achaians
make good thy requital,
If Zeus will only concede
the sack of the mighty-walled city.

18. Then came an answering word
from the ruler of men Agamemnon.
Do not, albeit so smart,
Achilles beknown as the godlike,
Seek to dissimulate thus ;
for thou shalt not outreach or convince me.
So thou wouldst like to retain what is thine,
and I sit here with nothing ?
So tis from thee that I get
a summons to give back the maiden ?
Well, if the great-souled Achaians
will give me another, so be it :
Only consult ye my taste,
that I may not be any the loser.
But if they do not so,
even I will go straight and lead captive
Her that was given to thee,
or Ajax perhaps, or Odysseus :
Unto whomever I come,
the same shall have cause for his anger.
But our conclusion on this
can occasion :

Now to the infinite deep
 come and haul a black ship from its station :
 Muster your rowers apace ;
 and drive in the herd of a hundred :
 Help up the maiden herself ;
 the comely-cheeked daughter of Chryses :
 Some one of judgment and tact
 depute for the vessel's commander ;
 Ajax, or Idomeneus,
 or haply the godlike Odysseus ;
 Or thyself, son of Peleus ;
 of all men the most to be dreaded :
 Go with a sacrifice meet,
 to soften the heart of the death-god.


19. Eying him, scornfully grim,
 outspake the swift-footed Achilles.
 Aha, thou in shamelessness clad,
 whose thought is on selfish advancement !
 How can a single Achaian
 be ready to follow thy bidding ?
 Either to march on the road,
 or to sturdily fight with the foeman ?
 I did not hitherward come
 because of the spear-wonted Trojans :
 Not unto me the offence
 that has brought me to battle against them :

Never came they on a raid
 to drive off my horses and cattle :
Nor have they ever made off
 with the fruit of my harvest in Phthia ;
Land of the deep dark loam,
 and of nurture for man : for between us
Lies the re-echoing sea
 and many a shadowy mountain.
Thee, very shameless, we follow ;
 and dogface, for thee is the profit :
For Menelaus and thee,
 from the Trojans we seek satisfaction.
Such matters give thee no thought :
 by them thou art put to no trouble.
Now thou dost threaten, forsooth,
 to appropriate my prize for thy prize :
Her, for my toil without stint,
 the sons of the Danaans gave me.
Never do I get a prize
 that is equal to what thou obtainest,
When the Achaians have sacked
 any populous town of the Troad ;
But the preponderant share
 in the brunt of impetuous onset,
That on my hands is bestowed ;
 and when the time comes for assignment,

Thine is the bulk of the booty ;
 and I, when a-weary with warring,
 Come to the ships with a prize
 that is little, but yet very precious.
 Now will I Phthiaward go ;
 for truly I deem it far better
 Homeward to hie in the crescent ships
 than to stay in dishonor :
 I have no mind to be here
 and amass for thee wealth and possessions.

20. Then came the answering word
 from the monarch of men Agamemnon.
 Fly then, by all means, say I ;
 if such is the mood that impels thee :
 I would not ask thee to stay ;
 not for me : there are plenty of others
 Left to do honor to me ;
 especially Zeus in his wisdom.
 Zeus never fostered a king
 that to me was so odious as thou art :
 Strife is thy constant delight :
 contention and fight are thy pleasure.
 Grant that thy prowess is great :
 should thine or some god's be the glory ?
 Off to thy home with thy ships ;
 and with thee thy hapless companions :

Lord oer thy Myrmidons there :
 nor dream that thine absence concerns me.
 I do not care for thy spleen ;
 and thus unto thee will I threaten :
 Phœbus Apollo from me
 hath taken the daughter of Chryses :
 I am to send her away
 in my ship and with some of my comrades :
 But I lead unto myself
 the comely-cheeked daughter of Briseus ;
 Whilom thy prize :
 to thy tent I will go for that purpose in person :
 Then shalt thou realize well
 how much above thy power is my power :
 Thenceforth another may dread
 to be openly named as mine equal.

21. Hereat he paused ; and his words
 had goaded Achilles to madness :
 Under the shag of his breast
 the heart beat with impulse divided ;
 Whether to draw from his thigh
 the sword that was sharpened and ready,
 Scatter the throng from their seats,
 and give Agamemnon his death-stroke,
 Or put a curb to his wrath.
 and keep the cr  passion.

While he was thus distraught
 with the turbulent rush of his feelings,
 And from the sheath at his side
 was drawing the ponderous weapon,
 Down sped Athena from heaven ;
 sent onward by Hera the white-armed,
 Who for them both in her heart
 felt equal concern and affection.
 Back of Achilles she stood,
 and clasped the blond hair to restrain him ;
 Showing to him alone ;
 for none of the others could see her.
 Then was Achilles amazed ;
 and he turned ; and he knew in a moment
 Pallas Athena was there ;
 for her eyes as they met him looked awful.
 He was the one to speak ;
 and addressed her in words that were winged.

22. What hast thou come for again,
 thou offspring from Zeus of the ægis ?
 Is it that thou mayst behold
 Agamemnon the insolent scoffer ?
 I will declare unto thee ;
 and I trow that the future shall prove it ;
 He for his arrogant acts
 shall speedily forfeit his life-blood.

23. He then in turn was addressed
by the bright-blue-eyed goddess Athena.
I have come hither for guiding thine anger,
if thou wilt but heed me :
Down from the heaven was I sent
by the goddess-queen Hera the white-armed ;
Who for you both in her heart
feeleth equal concern and affection.
Cease from the brawl : with thy hand
be not drawing the sword from its scabbard :
But do thou scathe him with words
as much as thy feeling impel thee.
Thus will I also declare ;
and I know that the future shall prove it :
There shall be thine anon
gifts three times as many and splendid ;
Only be guided by me ;
and lose not thyself in a frenzy.
24. Then came the answering word
unto her from the foot-swift Achilles.
It is but proper and right
that the word of you two be respected ;
Spite of my rankling at heart ;
for thus it will surely be better :
Whoso obeyeth the gods,
unto him they especially hearken.

25. Still stayed the ponderous hand,
 hard griping the sword-hilt of silver :
 Then in its sheath he shoved
 the weapon of might, in compliance
 Unto Athena's behest ;
 and she went away to Olympus ;
 Where dwelleth Zeus of the ægis,
 along with the other supernals.
26. Then did the son of Peleus
 break forth with renewed maledictions,
 Hurl'd at the son of Atreus ;
 nor yet did he cease from his fury.
 Thou art a hind and a hound,
 to look at thy heart and thy visage :
 Wine-sot, thou never hast dared
 to be armed with the rest of the people,
 Ready for war or the ambuscade
 with the Danaan chieftains :
 Thither thou art not drawn ;
 thou thinkst it would put thee in peril.
 Soothly twere better by far
 through the broad-lying camp of the Argives,
 Thus to despoil of his grant
 whoever saith aught to oppose thee.
 Thou art a ruinous king to thy people ;
 and they must be dastard ;

Or thou shouldst long before now
 have uttered the last of thine insults.
I will declare to thy face,
 and swear a great oath in addition ;
Yea, by this truncheon ; which never again
 shall put forth twigs and leaflets ;
Nor shall it bloom afresh ;
 for the stump on the hills is abandoned :
Round and about it the axe
 hath lopped off the bark with the leaf sprigs :
Now tis an emblem of law
 in the hands of the sons of Achaïans ;
Who are but servants of Zeus.
 And this be the great oath I swear thee.
One of these days shall come
 a longing to look on Achilles ;
Unto the sons of Achaïans,
 to one and to all through the army.
Thou shalt be impotent then,
 withal thy chagrin, to assist them,
When many sink in death
 at the hands of the man-felling Hector.
Then shall thy heart within
 corrode with the gall of vexation :
For thou hast honored in naught
 the noblest of all the Achaïans.

27. Thus spake the son of Peleus ;
 and down on the ground flung the truncheon :
Studded it was with golden nails :
 and then he subsided ;
Leaving the son of Atreus
 in an equally violent passion.
Then, perceiving his time,
 there sprang up the sweet-worded Nestor,
Unto the Danaan throng ;
 the silver-toned Pylian speaker.
All that he said would come from his tongue
 in mellifluous cadence :
Two generations of men
 already had gone from beside him ;
Comrades of his from birth,
 and with whom he had grown up to manhood,
Over in Pylos divine ;
 and now with the third he was reigning.
Having their welfare at heart,
 he addressed the assembled Achaïans.
28. Ah me ! a grievous mishap
 hath come to the land of Achaïa.
Soothly would Priam exult,
 and likewise the children of Priam :
All of the Trojans beside
 would be of a jubilant spirit,

If they should hear of you two
 on all of these matters contending ;
You who are best of us all in council,
 and best in the fighting.
Only give heed unto me ;
 for ye both are far younger than I am.
Once, in the days of yore,
 I lived among mightier mortals
Than any man of you ;
 nor yet did they ever disdain me.
I have not looked on the like,
 nor will it be mine to behold it,
Of such as Peirithous ;
 and Dryas, the shepherd of people ;
Kaineus ; and Exadius ;
 and godlike in mien Polyphemus ;
Theseus, the son of Ægeus ;
 a man who was like the immortals.
They were the grandest of all
 that grew on the earth's kindly bosom :
Grandest were they themselves,
 and worthy to fight with the grandest :
Fought they with beasts in their mountain lairs,
 and signally slew them.
There too was numbered among them
 myself, who had come out from Pylos ;

Far from a distant land ;
 in accordance with their invitation.
There then I fought what I could ;
 and none of the nowadays mortals,
Such as are on the earth,
 could fight with the heroes that they were.
They gave an ear to my word,
 and minded the counsel I gave them :
Then do ye also comply ;
 for compliance will surely be better.
Thou, make not use of thy power
 to take from Achilles his maiden ;
But let the prize remain
 as the sons of Achaians first gave her.
Do not thou, son of Peleus,
 be minded to open a contest
That is to set thee in strife
 with the power of the king and the sceptre :
Theirs is the glory from Zeus
 that cometh not down upon others.
Thou art a man of might ;
 and a goddess the mother that bore thee ;
Yet his resources are more ;
 for he hath the lordship of numbers.
Son of Atreus, do thou give place unto wrath ;
 yea, for my sake :

I make appeal unto thee
 to bear no ill will to Achilles :
 He gainst the evil of war
 is a bulwark to all the Achaïans.

29. Then came the answering word
 from the ruler of men Agamemnon.
 Verily hast thou, old man,
 set forth all these things as they should be :
 Yet doth this man desire
 to be above all of the others :
 He would fain rule over all,
 and make us all bow to his bidding :
 He would give orders to all ;
 and for one I think not to obey them.
 If he was fashioned for war
 by the gods that are ever existent,
 Do they by virtue of this
 empower him to utter his insults ?
30. Stopping him short in his speech,
 retorted the godlike Achilles.
 I should be called a poltroon,
 and a fellow with not a thing in him,
 Were I to make all I do
 to accord with whatever thou sayest :
 Better take somebody else
 to execute these **mandments** :

Dont be dictating to me ;
 for I mean not to further obey thee.
 One other thing will I say ;
 and see that thou ponder it duly :
 I will not fight with my hands
 because of the maiden in question,
 Either with thee or another ;
 for they who bestowed her now take her :
 But at my swift black ship
 of other things I am the owner :
 Not one of these shouldst thou take or touch
 if I were not willing.
 Come on and try, if thou wouldst ;
 that these may observe how thou farest :
 Quick shall thy livid blood
 be spurting around from my spear-head.

IV.

31. Then did the twain arise
 from the warring of words and contention ;
 Making the meeting dissolve
 that had sat by the ships of the Argives.
 Then to his tents and the ships
 that were resting in graceful proportion
 Wended the son of Peleus
 with Patroclus and the companions ;

Leaving the son of Atreus
 to haul the swift ship to the water.
 Twenty the rowers he chose ;
 and he drove in the herd for Apollo :
 Then he brought on and helped up
 the comely-cheeked daughter of Chryses :
 While as commander got in
 Odysseus of many resources.
 Having embarked, they put out ;
 and they sailed on the watery roadways.

32. Now Agamemnon ordained
 that the people perform a lustration :
 This they accordingly did ;
 and their foulness they cast on the ocean.
 Unto Apollo they proffered
 the hecatombs full and unblemished ;
 Bullocks and goats ; by the shore
 of the sea that is salt and unrestful :
 Heavenward the savor and smoke
 together went spirally curling.

33. These were the things down the camp
 that engaged them ; nor did Agamemnon
 Fail to continue the strife
 he had r met at Achilles.

Straightly he gave his word
to Talthybius and Eurybates ;
Who were his heralds twain ;
his faithful and active assistants.
Go ye for me to the tent
of Achilles the offspring of Peleus :
Take by the hand and bring here
the comely-cheeked daughter of Briseus :
If he surrender her not,
then I will go take her in person ;
Yea, at the head of a force ;
and that he will find even harder.

V.

34. Harsh was the message he sent ;
and very reluctant they took it ;
Wending their way by the shore
of the sea that is salt and unrestful ;
Coming the while to the ships
and the tents of the Myrmidons' campment.
Side of his tent and black ship
the man of their quest they found sitting ;
Nor upon seeing the twain
was Achilles delighted within him.
Greatly in dread of the king
and in awe they were motionless standing :

Not a word spake they to him,
 nor ventured their errand to utter :
 Need was there none of this ;
 for he knew it full well ; and addressed them.

35. Hail to you, heralds ; who bear
 both for Zeus and for mankind the message :
 Come ye ; for not unto you
 the resentment I bear Agamemnon ;
 Him that hath made you come here
 for the maiden the daughter of Briseus.
 Patroclus, offspring from Zeus,
 do thou go and bring out the maiden :
 Give her to them to take away ;
 and let them stand to witness,
 Unto the blessed gods,
 and unto mankind that is mortal,
 Yea, and before the harsh king ;
 if ever there come in the future
 Need of mine aid again,
 for warding unseemly destruction
 Off from the rest.
 In sooth his mind is a craze of malignance :
 Nor in the least can he see
 that the past is a guide for the future ;
 So that beside of their ships
 the Achæans battle in safety.

36. Patroclus, een as he spake,
 had obeyed his belovèd companion ;
 Bringing from out of the tent
 the comely-cheeked daughter of Briseus ;
 Gave her to lead away ;
 and the twain for the ships of the Argives
 Started again ; while with them
 went the woman, but very unwilling.

VI.

37. Straightly Achilles withdrew
 in tears from among his companions :
 Far from their presence he went
 and sat himself down on the seaside ;
 There by the hoary surge ;
 gazing out on the deep all boundless.
 Long to the mother he loved
 he prayed with his hands holden upward.
38. Mother, thou broughtest me forth
 to a lifetime whose span is contracted :
 Then twere but fitting, methinks,
 that I should get something of honor
 From the Olympian Zeus,
 who thunders on high in the heaven :
 Yet it is not the case :
 the boon he confers is dishonor ;

Dealt by the son of Atreus,
Agamemnon of wide-spread dominion :
He hath laid hands on my prize ;
and keepeth her now to be his prize.

39. Thus spake he forth through his tears ;
and his mother, the honored one, heard him ;
Down in the depths of the sea,
as she sat by her father the ancient.
Swift from the hoary sea
she emerged in the phase of a mist-cloud ;
Sat herself down on the strand
in front of her tearful Achilles :
Tenderly she with her hand caressed him ;
and said to him fondly,
40. Child of mine, why dost thou cry ?
What sorrow hath come to thy spirit ?
Speak out ; conceal not from me ;
and then we can both know about it.
41. Heaving a deep-drawn sigh,
made answer the foot-swift Achilles.
Thou art already aware ;
why tell it to thee knowing all things ?
We unto Theba went ;
the sacred abode of Eetion :

This we devoted to sack ;
 and we brought all the booty back hither :
Fairly divided it was
 among all of the sons of Achaïans ;
Giving the son of Atreus
 the comely-cheeked daughter of Chryses :
He it appears was the priest
 of Apollo the flasher of arrows ;
And he came to the swift-sailing ships
 of the Argives whose tunics are brazen :
Ransoms unmeasured by price
 had he brought for redeeming his daughter ;
Taking along in his hand
 the fillets of radiant Apollo,
Strung on a sceptre of gold.
 He pleaded with all the Achaïans ;
But most with the sons of Atreus,
 who marshal the people in order.
Then the feelings of justice and awe
 brought a verdict from all the Achaïans :
The priest should be held in respect,
 and his splendid requital accepted :
But one was by no means agreed ;
 the son of Atreus, Agamemnon :
He sent him gruffly away ;
 an injury heightened by insult.
Then the old man went away ;
 but in wrath ; and he prayed to Apollo,

Prayers that were heard above ;
for he to his lord was beloved.
Then on the Danaan host
came flying the shafts of destruction :
Then sank the people in death,
succumbing in rapid succession :
Clear through the broad-lying camp
the darts of the god came a glancing.
Then the intuitive seer
unriddled the wrath of the radiant.
I was the first to commend
that the god should receive an atonement :
Rage took the son of Atreus,
as I spoke ; and he rose on the instant ;
Hurling a threat against me ;
and now hath it reached consummation :
For in a swift-sailing ship
some bright-eyed Achaïans are taking
One of the girls to her home in Chrysa,
with gifts for Apollo ;
While from my tent even now
the heralds went leading the other ;
Daughter of Briseus ; my prize,
that the sons of Achaïans had given me.
Use then thy power, if thou canst,
to encompass with protection :
Go to Olymp

If thou hast ever at all
 cheered his heart or in word or in doing.
Time and again have I heard thee
 to boast in the halls of my father,
How it was thou alone
 among the immortals, that warded
Off from the cloud-darkened son of Kronos
 unseemly destruction ;
When twas the wish of the other Olympian dwellers
 to bind him ;
Hera, the white-armed queen ;
 and Poseidon ; and Pallas Athena.
Thou didst go up unto him,
 and out of his bondage release him ;
Unto Olympus the blest
 the hundred-armed hastily calling ;
Him who is hight of the gods
 Briareos, meaning the mighty ;
Hight of all mankind Ægeon ;
 a word for the sweep of the billow.
He in the fulness of power
 had exceeded his father before him.
Down by the offspring of Kronos
 he sat in exuberant vigor :
This made the blessed gods fear,
 and desist from their project of bondage.
Now remind Zeus of it all ;
 and clasping his knees, sit thee by him :

Haply twill win his consent
to bestow on the Trojans assistance ;
While by their sterns at the sea
he may huddle and cramp the Achaians,
There to be slain ; that they all
may delight to the full in their despot ;
And to the son of Atreus,
Agamemnon of wide-spread dominion,
There may be added at last
a sense for perceiving his folly,
In that he honored in naught
the noblest of all the Achaians.

42. Thetis then answered her son ;
though frequent the tear drops came welling.
Child of my heart, ah me !
unto sorrow I bore thee and reared thee.
Oh that thou couldst by the ships
be sitting unwronged and untearful.
Truly the term of thy life
is brief, and by no means protracted :
Destiny cometh apace ;
and yet thou among all art most wretched :
So to a life-time of woe
came the child in the halls of thy father.
But will I tell the tale
unto Zeus who delighteth in **thunder** :

Going unto snow-capped Olympus myself ;
 and he may be prevailed on.
 Thou by the swift-sailing ships keep staying ;
 and nurse thy resentment
 Unto the Argive band ;
 and desist altogether from warfare.
 Yesterday Zeus went away
 to a feast by the bourns of the ocean ;
 Where dwell the Ethiops pure ;
 and the other gods went along with him :
 But on the twelfth coming day
 he will go once again to Olympus :
 Then do I straightly go
 to his palace whose threshold is brazen :
 There I take hold of his knees ;
 and I think he will yield to persuasion.

43. When she had told him this,
 she vanished from where he was sitting ;
 Leaving him bitter at heart
 because of the fair-waisted woman,
 Whom they had wrested away
 from him who was very unwilling.

VII.

44. Still sped Odysseus to Chrysa
 with hallowèd herd of a hundred.
So as they came within the sweep
 of the very deep harbor,
First they took in the sails ;
 and in the black ship hold they stowed them :
Then to its place in the crotch
 they lowered the mast by the fore-stays :
Quickly twas done : and with oars
 they propelled her along to the landing :
Anchor stones there were thrown out ;
 and they tied down the cables that held them.
Then they got out themselves
 right into the surf that was breaking :
Then was the herd of a hundred
 driven out for the radiant Apollo :
Lastly the maiden got out
 of the ship that had traversed the sea-deeps.
She to the altar was led
 by Odysseus of many resources :
In her dear father's hands he put her,
 and thus he addressed him :
45. Chryses, I come by command
 of the monarch of men Agamemnon ;

Bringing to thee thy child ;
 and a hallowèd herd of a hundred
Unto the shrine of thy lord,
 to atone on the part of the Argives ;
Who at his hands but now
 have suffered most grievous affliction.

46. Thus he gave over his charge ;
 and the father received his dear daughter,
Greatly rejoiced : and at once
 for Apollo the hecatomb goodly
Stood they in order arranged
 encircling the well builded altar :
This done, they laved their hands ;
 and they picked up the kernels of barley :
Unto them Chryses then prayed aloud
 with his hands holden upward.

47. Hearken, O hearken to me,
 thou god of the bow that is silvern.
Cilla the sacred and Chrysa
 thou hast in protection encompassed ;
While over Tenedos' isle
 thou art lord in resistless dominion.
Once on a time ere now
 thou didst listen to my supplication :

Then didst thou vindicate me,
and didst mightily smite the Achaians.
Yet once again, yea now,
I pray thee my longing accomplish :
Far from the Danaan camp
remove now the foul devastation.
Thus ran his joyous appeal ;
and Phœbus Apollo did hearken.

48. When they had finished their prayers,
and had tossed on the kernels of barley,
Upward they turned the throat of the victim,
and killed him, and skinned him.
Then they cut out the thighs,
and wrapped them up thickly in fatness,
Doubling the layers they made ;
and above they laid on the raw pieces.
Then on some sticks of wood
the aged one burned it to ashes ;
Pouring the dark-gleaming wine
above it to make the libation :
Five were the tines to the forks
that the youths held in hand standing round him.
But when the thighs had consumed,
and they all had partaken the haslet,
All that was left they cut up,
and the pieces impaled on the skewers ;

Carefully roasted them through,
 and took them off when they were ready.
 Then when they ceased from the work,
 with all things prepared for the banquet,
 Feasting they sat ; and the soul
 did not lack in the liberal wassail.
 When they had fully indulged
 the desire for the bowl and the trencher,
 Brim full the youths filled the crocks
 with pure wine and water commingled ;
 Gave some to all ; but first
 poured 'out with the cups a libation.
 Then for the livelong day
 in music the younger Achaïans
 Sought for the grace of the god
 as they chanted the beautiful pæan ;
 Hymning the praise of the god ;
 and he heard it delighted in spirit.
 And when the sun went down,
 and twilight came on with the shadows,
 Hard by the cables astern
 they laid themselves down for the night-time.

49. When shone the following dawn,
 the day-spring with fingers of carmine,
 Then they set sail once again
 for the broad-lying camp of the Argives ;

Wafted by favoring gales
that Apollo the archer had sent them.
Straight stood the mast up high ;
and aloft spread the sails in their whiteness,
Filled with the bellying wind
that bulged and distended the canvas :
Deep was the sough of the darkling wave
round the stem as she clove it ;
Leaving the billows behind
as she sped on the watery roadway.
When they had come to the camp,
the broad-lying camp of the Argives,
Hauled they the black ship out
and up on the strand of the sea-board ;
High in among the dunes ;
and shored her up fast with long stanchions.
Then to their tents and ships,
each one to his own, they disbanded.

VIII.

50. Still by the swift-sailing ships
the offspring from Zeus, son of Peleus,
Foot-swift Achilles, remained ;
and cherished his feud in resentment :
Nor did he ever frequent
the assembly ennobling to mortals ;

Nor did he go to the war ;
 but the spirit kept pining within him,
 Courting inglorious ease,
 when he longed for the cry and the combat.

IX.

51. But when the twelfth day dawned,
 together, with Zeus coming foremost,
 Unto Olympus repaired
 the gods that are ever existent.
 Neither was Thetis forgetful
 of all that her child had enjoined her :
 So she arose from the deep
 to the crest of the sea-sweeping billow ;
 Floating with misty morn
 far up the vast heaven to Olympus.
 Sitting apart from the rest
 was Kronos' far thundering offspring ;
 High on the uttermost peak
 of Olympus whose ridges are many.
 Thetis before him sat down ;
 and clasping his knee with her left hand,
 Under his chin with her right
 she touched him ; and thus as a suppliant
 Made her appeal unto Zeus,
 the autocrat offspring of Kronos.

52. O father Zeus, if I ever
 among the immortals have cheered thee,
Either in word or in deed,
 I pray thee my longing accomplish :
Honor to me my son ;
 whose doom cometh swifter than others' :
He hath indignity borne
 from the monarch of men Agamemnon ;
Who hath laid hands on his prize ;
 and keepeth her now to be his prize.
But do thou vindicate him,
 Olympian Zeus, in thy wisdom :
Unto the Trojans vouchsafe ascendance ;
 until the Achaïans
Not only honor my son,
 but make him abounding in honor.
53. Hereat she paused ; nor a word
 came to her from the lord of the cloud realm :
Long he in silence sat ;
 while Thetis held only the closer ;
Like the branch unto the tree ;
 and thus she renewed her petition.
54. Give me thy promise true ;
 and nod with thy head to confirm it ;

Or else say no ; for to thee is no dread ;
and then I may know surely
In how far I am to be
dishonored among the immortals.

55. Greatly perturbed, unto her
 made answer the lord of the cloud realm.
 This is a serious thing,
 for thee to embroil me with Hera ;
 Who will in no wise forbear
 to upbraid me with bitter reproaches :
 She doth for ever and aye
 berate me among the immortals ;
 Saying that I am the one
 who helpeth the Trojans in battle.
 Do thou for now go away,
 lest Hera may haply descry thee :
 This that thou prayest shall be
 my concern till the day of fulfilment.
 Yea, if thou wouldst, I will nod with my head ;
 that thou be not distrustful :
 This is the pledge that transcends
 all others I give the immortals :
 Not to be taken back,
 and not to be proven fallacious,
 Not to be unfulfilled,
 is whatever my nodding hath sanctioned.

56. Silent, with darksome brows,
 then nodded the offspring of Kronos :
Streamed the ambr̄sial locks
 adown from the sovereign immortal :
Sending a tremulous throb
 pulsating through mighty Olympus.

X.

57. Herewith their conference closed ;
 and they parted ; she noiselessly gliding
Unto the depths of the sea,
 far down from resplendent Olympus :
Zeus to his palace repaired ;
 and all the gods rose up together
Out of their seats to meet the Sire ;
 nor did one of them venture
Him to await as he came ;
 but they all stood aright in his presence.
There on the throne he sat ;
 and Hera divined as she saw him
He had in conclave been ;
 concerting and scheming with some one ;
Thetis of silver-white foot ;
 the briny diluvian's daughter :
Straightly with words to sting
 she spake to the offspring of Kronos.

58. Wily one, who of the gods
 with thee hath been scheming and planning?
Ever tis pleasant to thee,
 from me at a distance remaining,
Thus upon secret things
 to brood and to make thy decision;
Never of thine accord
 trusting me with a word of thy purpose
59. Then came the answering word
 from the father of gods and of mortals.
Hera, do thou not expect
 to be privy to all of my counsels:
They would be bad for thee,
 albeit my partner in wedlock:
All that thou oughtest to hear,
 none of gods or of men shall know rather:
But what I wish to devise
 apart from the other immortals,
Ask not a word of this;
 and presume not to proffer thy questions.
60. Answering spake then the honored,
 the ample-and-liquid-eyed Hera.
Offspring of Kronos most dread,
 what manner of speech hast thou spoken!

Surely till now I have not been
 inquiring or proffering questions :
Perfectly undisturbed
 hast thou pondered whateer thou hast listed.
Now doth my heart misgive, and sorely,
 that she hath been at thee ;
Thetis of silver-white foot ;
 the briny diluvian's daughter :
For in the misty morn
 she lay as a suppliant before thee.
Thou thine infallible nod
 didst give her, I ween, for Achilles ;
That thou wouldst vindicate him,
 slaying hosts at the ships of the Argives.

61. Then came the answering word
 unto her from the lord of the cloud realm.
Creature of infatuation,
 I never escape thy suspicion :
Nothing at all shalt thou
 have power to effect ; but be only
Aliened the more from me :
 and that shalt thou find even harder.
If what thou sayest is true,
 it will be from my choice that it is so.
Sit thyself down, and keep still ;
 and mind thou the order I give thee ;

Lest not as many gods
 as there are in Olympus avail thee,
 When I come at thee,
 and lay my hands irresistible on thee.

62. Such talk affrighted the honored,
 the ample-and-liquid-eyed Hera :
 Silent she sat herself down ;
 constraining her heart to compliance.
 But through the palace of Zeus
 the celestials were greatly indignant.
 Hephaistus took up the word ;
 the artisan famous for forging ;
 Striving to comfort and cheer
 his dear mother Hera the white-armed.

63. This is a serious thing ;
 and one we cannot have continued ;
 That ye should quarrel like this
 on behalf of some favorite mortal ;
 Keeping up strife among gods :
 for thus there can be no enjoyment.
 Drawn from the glorious feast ;
 with worser conditions prevailing.
 I would my mother advise,
 although she herself hath discretion,

That unto dear father Zeus
 she offer a gentle rejoinder ;
So that he may not again
 reprove her, and trouble our banquet.
It needeth naught but the will
 of him, the Olympian lightener,
Us to hurl out of our seats ;
 for he is by far the most mighty.
But do thou soften him now,
 with words that be soothing and placid :
Straightly Olympian Zeus
 unto us will be rendered propitious.

64. Speaking, he jumped to his feet ;
 and taking the double-cupped goblet,
Unto the mother he loved
 he placed it in hand, and addressed her
Mother of mine, bear up ;
 forbear in thy great provocation ;
Lest with mine eyes I behold thee,
 albeit so dearly beloved,
Beaten ; for then I could not,
 withal my chagrin, be thy refuge :
For it is hard indeed
 to make headway against the Olympian.
Once on a time ere now,
 when I was too eager to shield thee,

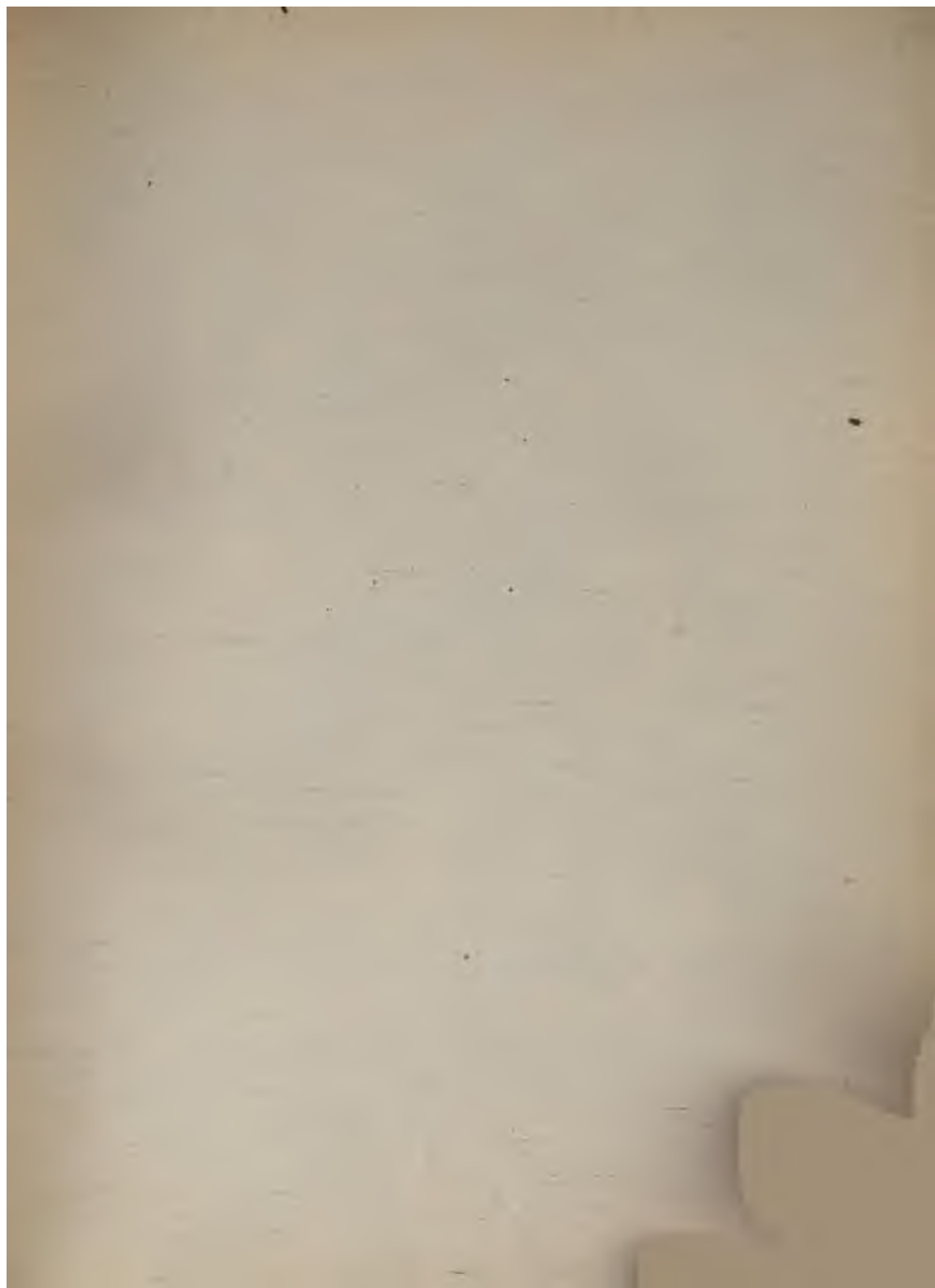
Clutched by the foot, I got hurled
 down down from the threshold tremendous :
 All the day long I swept on
 swept on with the sun till the sundown ;
 Striking on Lemnos' isle ;
 and the life it left in me was little :
 There did the Sintian men
 take care of me after the down-fall.

65. Thus he spake ; and his words brought a smile
 to the goddess-queen Hera the white-armed :
 Smiling, she took in her hand
 from her offspring the goblet he gave her.
 Then to the rest of the gods,
 from the left to the right of the circle,
 Poured he the wine ; the nectar sweet ;
 from the mixing-bowl drawing.
 Then from the blessed gods
 rose peals of unquenchable laughter,
 As they saw Hephaistus thus
 fly bustling around through the palace.

66. So for the livelong day,
 continuing on till the sunset,
 Feasting they sat ; and the soul
 did not lack of the liberal wassail ;

Nor of the rapturous lyre,
 made tuneful by Phœbus Apollo ;
Nor of the Muses, who sang
 responsive in musical cadence.
But when the sun had gone,
 and the luminous twilight was fading,
They to lie down repaired,
 one and all to their homes in the heaven :
There were abodes for them all ;
 which Hephaistus, greatly distinguished,
Strong in the arms, and endowed
 with pre-eminent talent, had builded.
Zeus too went unto his couch ;
 the mighty Olympian lightener ;
Where he had lain before,
 when the sweetness of sleep came upon him :
There getting up, he slept ;
 and beside him the golden-throned Hera.

[*Six hundred and twenty-five lines.*]



SEP 30 1881
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MAY 26 1886

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